

CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY

11 June 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**SUBJECT: White House Meeting on Freedom Commission Bills,
H. R. 3880 and S. 1689**

1. On 11 June the Director, accompanied by John S. Warner, met in the White House for approximately 45 minutes with Robert Merriam, Rex Reid (Bureau of the Budget), and Karl Harr (OCB). The Director reviewed briefly his discussion with Senator Mundt, and I related the brief chats with Representatives Judd and Bennett. The Director advised that C. D. Jackson has been requested to testify on these bills in the Senate on 18 June and has requested the Director's thoughts.

2. Mr. Reid indicated that three agencies have been requested by the Judiciary Committee to furnish comments on the bills. The Department of Justice's comments have been cleared by the Bureau of the Budget, and apparently USIA and State replies are still being worked on. The Director requested copies of proposed comments on the bills from other agencies. (I telephoned Mr. Hughes of the Bureau of the Budget who will forward copies.) Apparently the position being developed is that the objectives of the bills are good but that no new Government agency is needed to deal with them; consequently, the bills could not be recommended.

3. For internal consideration Mr. Merriam mentioned the President's strong interest in establishing a group of private citizens as a Commission on National Goals to report after the elections in 1960 but prior to inauguration of a new President. One of the purposes of the Commission would be to study the implications of the cold war for the United States as a whole, pointing up the decisions that would be required. There appeared to be some feeling that the Freedom Commission proposal was far too specific to consider in connection with this proposed Commission.

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4. Also mentioned was the Ellis Island proposal for an International Cultural Institute which is intended primarily for business executives and their wives going abroad for extended stays. This course envisioned a six- to ten-week language and area study.

5. The Director indicated that certainly he would be called to testify and he would deal with an explanation of the Communist threat and the worldwide mechanism of the Communists.

6. It was deemed desirable that the hearings be followed on a day-to-day basis and the Director suggested to Karl Harr that he might designate someone to do this. Subsequently, there was further discussion of who would follow the open hearings. Mr. Harr asked that I call him further on this.

7. The Director mentioned the numerous universities and other groups presently giving courses and training in the fields related to the Freedom Academy idea. It was thought desirable that possibly the names of the individuals connected with some of these activities should be furnished to the Senate Committee. This problem will be examined and the Agency will endeavor to furnish this information on a nonattributable basis.

of John S. Warner
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